

City of Newport Beach  
Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** March 7, 2019

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Crystal Cove Conference Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, Councilmember Jeff Herdman.

**2. Welcome/Self Introductions**

**Committee Members present:**

Jeff Herdman, Chair

Councilmember "Duffy" Duffield, Vice Chair (absent)

Tom Houston

Dennis Baker

Carl Cassidy

Richard McNeil

Louis Denger

Fred Galluccio

George Robertson

**Guests present:**

Hoiyin Ip, Sierra Club

Ian Swift, IRWD

Roger Yount, Little Balboa Island Homeowners Association

Jim Mosher, Resident

Nancy Gardner, Orange Coast River Park

Monica Mazar, Retired County of Orange

Bill Lane, Dana Point Ocean Water Quality Committee

Kurt Borsting, City of Newport Beach, Harbor Department

**Staff present:**

John Kappeler, Senior Engineer

Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

**4. Review and approval of minutes**

Committee Member Dennis Baker moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2019; Committee Member George Robertson seconded; motion approved unanimously.

## 5. Current Business

- a) 2017/18 Committee Goals/Objectives (John Kappeler/Bob Stein) (10 min) Review and status update on the committee's 2017/18 goals and objectives.

Senior Engineer John Kappeler gave a brief update on the Water Wheel beginning with a recent news story on CBS. The trash wheel is getting a lot of attention and continues to move forward. Committee Member Baker asked if there is an education section and Senior Engineer Kappeler responded affirmatively. Committee Member Baker referenced a PSA idea regarding Orange Coast River Park and requesting a small grant (under \$5,000) for targeting plastics in the ocean for production of a PSA. He suggested asking the Newport Beach Film Festival to show the PSA prior to each film screening. The PSA could also be shown during other opportunities. Chair Herdman agreed with the concept. Hoiyin Ip, Sierra Club, stated Orange County School of Arts students may like to participate. Senior Engineer Kappeler suggested the PSA needs to be professionally made and not a student production. Discussion followed regarding getting volunteers and non-union help to get the project done. Senior Engineer Kappeler reported the first step is getting Orange County River Park to move on this. He addressed moving forward with grants for Trash Objective No. 4 and suggested a field trip might be in order. Kurt Borsting, City of Newport Beach, Harbor Department, felt they could provide some volunteers. Senior Engineer Kappeler addressed additional goals and objects; referenced Objective No. 5 regarding urban runoff; reported a schedule change was submitted to the State and the City is on track for spring of 2020, and indicated relative to Object 2A, the City received \$700,000 for construction drawings and the concept, adding that staff submitted an application for additional construction monies.

There was no further action taken on this item.

- b) Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) (Ian Swift) (20 min) Update on various IRWD projects.

Ian Swift, Irvine Ranch Water District, displayed a PowerPoint presentation to give an update on the Sand Canyon Reservoir Watershed. He reported that as predicted in last month's meeting, the reservoir did start spilling and addressed the capacity of the reservoir and the amount of spill. Committee Member McNeil asked if the mitigation only speaks to recycled water and Mr. Swift responded affirmatively. In response to Committee Member Houston's inquiry regarding when the recycled water goes into the reservoir, Mr. Swift reported the reservoir was topped off in mid-September; addressed a Reservoir Management Plan issued every June and indicated adjustments would be made, depending on the information available. He added there is no going down to zero, the reservoir must have a dead pool, the level would not go much below 200 acre feet and noted the need to strike a balance. Committee Member Denger asked if there was any damage caused the spillage and Mr. Swift reported there was no major damage other than some flooding in specific areas. Relative to the Green Acres Project, Mr. Swift stated there is not much to report and provided a brief update. He reported the pipeline is owned by the Metropolitan Water District and referenced an engineering study currently being evaluated by the Orange County Water District. Committee Member Baker asked about the Green Dot connection and Mr. Swift indicated that the Green Dot can be connected to the existing line, but it would need to be upsized to handle additional capacity. In response to Committee Member Houston's question, Mr. Swift stated payment would come from the IRWD. In further response

to Committee Member Houston's question, Mr. Swift reported it is hard to speculate and the line belongs to OCWD; noted they are testing the line's engineering limits and stated they have their own system to protect. Committee Member McNeil asked whether the overall purpose is to prevent recycled water to be discharged into the bay, Mr. Swift reported IRWD has an issue with the volume of recycled water during wet years and applied for a permit under specific emergency conditions to allow the discharge of recycled water into the watershed. Committee Member McNeil asked about ground water replenishment and Mr. Swift noted during the wet season, everyone has too much water; reported IRWD is pursuing a larger reservoir and addressed the importance of being sensitive to the community. Chair Herdman asked about the map of the pipeline and whether a connection is included in the agreement. Mr. Swift responded affirmatively, but noted it is the OCWD's infrastructure. Brief discussion followed regarding processing the water, connecting to an existing opening, the rationale for placing the Green Dot where it is and whether the water can be sold. Mr. Swift reported storage is key and addressed the proposed sub-watershed area slide, primary San Diego Creek inlets, drive weather flow and briefly reported on the status of their permit.

There was no further action taken on this item.

c) Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Tier 1 Grant Program (John Kappeler) (10 min) Update on OCTAs 2019 Tier I "Call for Projects".

Senior Engineer Kappeler discussed the information on the fact sheet for the Environmental Cleanup Allocation Program from the OCTA, Tier 1. He reported the program's objective is to improve overall water quality in Orange County from transportation-generated pollution and reported it was approved in 2006 by voters, under the Orange County Measure M2 half-cent sales tax. Senior Engineer Kappeler reported the Tier 1 Grant Program was designed to alleviate some of the more visible forms of pollutants and \$300 million was set aside for water quality projects. He added staff will present a resolution to the City Council for the City to apply for 400 to 450 connector pipe screens, a couple of trash skimmers and sea bins. In response to Chair Herdman's question regarding when the money will run out, Senior Engineer Kappeler guessed it would be about six years or so and stated the OCTA has been successful at spreading the money to different cities. In reply to Ms. Ip's inquiry, he reported the grant process is a competitive situation and the City will submit multiple applications to ensure success. In reply to Committee Member Baker regarding the availability of information relative to who has done well with the watershed process, Senior Engineer Kappeler reported OCTA will list the grants they have awarded, per year, and those who received grants have had a high success rate. He commented on the benefits of working together to help neighboring municipalities and pointed out the Santa Ana Delhi is a good example of working together. Ms. Ip stated in comparison, some other cities do not seem to have the capacity and Senior Engineer Kappeler noted the need to read through grant information to determine requirements.

There was no further action taken on this item.

d) Public Education Sub-committee (Fred Galluccio/Hoiyin Ip) (15 min) Update from the Public Education Sub-committee, including a discussion on magnetic signage and restaurant outreach.

Chair Herdman reported magnetic signage and restaurant outreach were addressed at the Committee's last meeting and asked for an update. Senior Engineer Kappeler reported there is no update but reported the City has done magnetic signage in the past and the Committee approved the logo and the message. He reported an exhibit of the proposed sign is needed and he can determine the cost by the next Committee meeting. Ms. Ip indicated she needs the size of the sign and a high-resolution image of the City logo. Brief discussion followed regarding a vendor and whether the signs will be all the same size. In terms of restaurant outreach, a letter has been written and will be distributed to restaurants in the City. The letter will be handed out when City inspectors visit restaurants with grease traps or interceptors. Committee Member Baker suggested having volunteers distribute the letters to restaurants that are not visited. Discussion followed regarding the existence of a list of all restaurants in the City, the number of restaurants in Newport Beach, other inspection cycles and providing a copy of the letter to County Health inspectors to hand out.

Committee Member McNeil stated he would like to see the magnetic sign design. Committee Member Houston hoped nobody objects to the artwork. Discussion followed regarding the intended message. Ms. Ip noted there is a hashtag #TrashFreeNewport. Senior Engineer Kappeler suggested doing a full mock-up of the proposed sign and presenting it to the committee at its next meeting.

Committee Member Houston moved to direct staff to email a copy of the letter to the committee for approval; Committee Member Baker seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding placing the sign on all utility and field trucks, the need for more discussion on this matter, once the sign is approved and next steps. It was noted that Ms. Ip suggested four items for the committee to consider and decide whether to forward them to Council for action. These include placing the restaurant handout online to share with other cities, place "serve on request" sign on the City's social media, consider a citywide single-use plastic and Styrofoam ban on a list of items that were in her previous presentations. Committee Member Galluccio stated he would like to see the proposed items go forward. Committee Member Robertson mentioned the trend of single-use plastic ban and the impact of micro plastics, and suggested a future presentation on Orange County Sanitation District's research on micro plastics.

There was no further action taken on this item.

## **6. On-going business**

- a) Bay and Ocean Bacteriological Test Results (John Kappeler) (15 min) Review and discussion of recent water quality test results within Newport Bay and along the ocean shoreline.

Senior Engineer Kappeler reviewed the data from the latest Bay and Ocean Bacteriological test handouts. He reported the new data is shown in red and approximately 35 sites are tested per week. He added that it rained the whole time and when it rains, the County has a 72-hour warning to stay out of the water. He addressed data for the Lower Bay, North Street Beach, Upper Bay and Lancaster Street at 62nd Street. He reported he will meet the County representative at Lancaster Street to check the storm drain and will report back to the committee. Additionally, he addressed

the Orange County Sanitation District. Discussion followed regarding rainy days and collecting rainy-day data. It was noted that all storm drains are tested after the rain and all values are high. Senior Engineer Kappeler reported there is a diversion that diverts water out of the dunes and there has been discussion to upgrade that diversion, but he would like to see how effective the diversion has been to make a determination regarding upgrading it. Committee Member Baker suggested it could be based on weather prediction.

Committee Member Cassidy felt the green zone in the Back Bay deserves committee attention. Committee Member Robertson stated there is no idea what the samples are. Committee Member Cassidy mentioned that the golf course is being watered with recycled water and is held at different standards and are inconsistent. He indicated he would like to know more about it. Committee Member Denger asked if there is any entity that would have an issue to discharge the reclaimed water into the Santa Ana River and Committee Member Baker reported there could be the potential, but it is not likely. Committee Member Robertson added that the Orange County Water District has a permit. Committee Member Denger mentioned pharmaceuticals in the water. Committee Member Cassidy stated he would like to hear future plans for measuring and in response to Committee Member Baker's question, Senior Engineer Kappeler reported Eastbluff uses recycled water.

There was no further action taken on this item.

#### **7. Committee announcements or matters which members would like placed on a future agenda for discussion, action or report (Non-Discussion Item) (10 min)**

- (a) Grant Program(s) Presentation (April 2019)
- (b) 3rd Annual Newport Harbor Underwater Cleanup (April 2019)
- (c) City of Newport Beach Sustainability Plan (Spring 2019)
- (d) Newport Harbor Vessel Pump out Program (Spring 2019)
- (e) Public Outreach to Hull Cleaning Divers (Spring 2019)
- (f) Vessel greywater discharge limitations (Spring 2019)
- (g) Shellfish Monitoring (Spring 2019)
- (h) Santa Ana Delhi Diversion - Field Trip (Spring 2019)
- (i) Public Education Plan - Phase II (Spring 2019)
- (j) Santa Isabel Channel/Cherry Lake - Field Trip (Summer 2019)

It was noted the Sanitation District is working on a micro-plastics study of the treatment process. It will be added to the list as more information is obtained. Chair Herdman reported he meets with Senior Engineer Kappeler two weeks prior to each meeting to develop an agenda.

#### **8. Public comments on non-agenda items (10 min)**

Nancy Gardner spoke about the General Plan update process and reported it will be a process of outreach. She addressed the purpose of the Steering Committee and the General Plan Advisory Committee and discussed the two-step process. She added a consultant will be hired, the City will seek input from the community and discussed addressing affordable housing.

Committee Member Galluccio mentioned a letter he received in the mail about an upcoming meeting regarding the flood mapping and redistricting. It was noted FEMA will be at the meeting and Chair Herdman explained the primary reason for the meeting noting there is a new flood zone map and Balboa is no longer in the flood zone area. There are properties on the peninsula that are now in the flood zone area and the City is holding a workshop to discuss it.

Committee Member Houston indicated that lenders are getting tighter about being in compliance and the City will waive a fee for a declaration that specific properties are now out of the flood zone. It was noted it will become official on March 21st.

Kurt Borsting reported the Harbor Commission is hosting a public forum about the long-term future of the Harbor on Monday, March 18th at Marina Park at 6:30 PM.

Jim Mosher referenced a Council study session about the City's water infrastructure and reported a new Water Master Plan is in the works. It was noted the item will go to Council without Committee review, as it is not within the Committee's scope of responsibility.

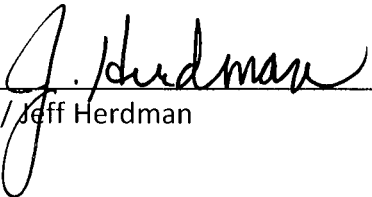
There was no further action taken on this item.

#### **9. Set next meeting date (5 min)**

The next meeting date was set for April 4, at 3:00 p.m. in the Crystal Cove Conference Room, located at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM.

  
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Chair / Jeff Herdman